

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3135–S3232

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 572–586 and S. Res. 72–74. Page S3199

Measures Passed:

Nuclear Waste Policy Act: By 65 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. 42), Senate passed S. 104, to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, after taking action on further amendments proposed thereto, as follows: Pages S3135–53

Adopted:

Murkowski Amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute. Pages S3135–37

Lott (for Domenici) Amendment No. 42, (to Amendment No. 26), to provide that no points of order, which require 60 votes in order to adopt a motion to waive such point of order, shall be considered to be waived during the consideration of a joint resolution under section 401 of this Act. Pages S3135–37

By 66 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 41), Lott (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 43 (to Amendment No. 42), to establish the level of annual fee for each civilian nuclear power reactor. Pages S3135–37

Rejected:

Bingaman Amendment No. 31 (to Amendment No. 26), to provide for the case in which the Yucca Mountain site proves to be unsuitable or cannot be licensed and to strike the automatic default to a site in Nevada. (By 59 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 40), Senate tabled the amendment.) Pages S3135–36

Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act: By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. 43), Senate passed S. 522, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

to impose civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized access of tax returns and tax return information by Federal employees and other persons, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S3180–90

Adopted:

Lott (for Coverdell) Amendment No. 45, in the nature of a substitute. Pages S3180–89

Messages From the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report of a proclamation to modify application of duty-free treatment; referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–29). Page S3197

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Linda Jane Zack Tarr-Whelan, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Yerker Andersson, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 1999. Page S3232

Messages From the President:

Page S3197

Communications:

Page S3198

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S3198–99

Statements on Introduced Bills: Pages S3199–S3224

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S3224–25

Amendments Submitted: Page S3226

Notices of Hearings: Pages S3226–27

Authority for Committees: Page S3227

Additional Statements: Pages S3227–31

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—43) **Pages** S3136–37, S3140, S3189

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 6 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Wednesday, April 16, 1997. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Assistant Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3232.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Lowell Lee Junkins, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, and Ann Jorgenson, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

IRS USE OF TAXPAYERS' FILES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government held hearings to examine alleged Internal Revenue Service employees misuse of taxpayers' files, receiving testimony from Senator Glenn; Lawrence H. Summers, Deputy Secretary, Valerie Lau, Inspector General, and Margaret Milner Richardson, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, all of the Department of the Treasury; and Rona B. Stillman, Chief Scientist for Computers and Telecommunications, General Accounting Office.

Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, April 17.

APPROPRIATIONS—AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Agriculture, receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from Jill Long Thompson, Under Secretary for Rural Development, Wally Beyer, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Jan E. Shadburn, Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Dayton J. Watkins, Administrator, Rural Business Cooperative Service, W. Bruce Crain, Executive Director, Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation, and Dennis Kaplan, Budget Officer, all of the Department of Agriculture.

Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, April 22.

APPROPRIATIONS—ARMY CORPS/BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on the Bonneville Power Administration, receiving testimony from Randy Hardy, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration; Brig. Gen. Robert H. Griffin, North Pacific Division Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers; and John Keys, Pacific Northwest Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, April 22.

AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Acquisition and Technology resumed hearings on S. 450, authorizing funds for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, focusing on the trends in the industrial and technology base supporting national defense, receiving testimony from Representative Christopher Smith; Robert Pitofsky, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission; John B. Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary (Industrial Affairs and Installations), and Eleanor R. Spector, Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary (Acquisition and Technology), both of the Department of Defense; David E. Cooper, Associate Director for Defense Acquisition Issues, National Security-Foreign Affairs Division, General Accounting Office; Pierre Chao, Morgan Stanley Equity Research, New York, New York; and Danielle Brian, Project on Government Oversight, and Don Fuqua, Aerospace Industries Association, both of Washington, D.C.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness resumed hearings on S. 450, authorizing funds for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and S. 451, to authorize construction at certain military installations for fiscal year 1998, and for other military construction authorizations and activities of the Department of Defense, focusing on